

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN

EDITOR

SATURDAY AUGUST 30, 1913

We ought to slip over many thoughts that pass through our minds, and pretend not to see them.—Madame de Sevigne.

THE ATMOSPHERE CLEARED

The territorial grand jury's action in acquitting William G. Chalmers of responsibility for the death of a child struck by his automobile does more than free a citizen of an ugly charge—it clears the atmosphere for the entire city.

The jury has gone carefully into the evidence pro and con offered in the case. Charges made publicly that Chalmers was driving recklessly, and other charges that the authorities were not handling the matter fully, and fairly, resulted in a thorough inquiry by the territorial body. The jurors called a very large number of witnesses before them and made a careful examination of these witnesses. The result is a vindication of Mr. Chalmers that settles the question of his personal responsibility in the negative. He is entitled to be as fully vindicated in the press as by the grand jury, and the Star-Bulletin is glad to be able to record that this well-known citizen, a man of family and a man who has keenly felt the gravity of the situation, has been finally, completely and authoritatively cleared.

This paper, throughout a case that has attracted more than ordinary attention, has insisted only on the right of the public to know the facts and to be informed as to responsibility for the accident. The grand jury investigation has been the best possible thing for Honolulu. It has shown that human life, even if that life is the life of a child of poor and obscure parents, is to be held of high importance, and that the loss of human life by accident is to be made the subject of thorough investigation. That the investigation was as far-reaching and as keen as the grand jury could make it, only adds to the completeness with which Mr. Chalmers is freed of personal accountability for a tragedy whose nature demanded full explanation.

A CASE IN POINT

The committee on county and municipal affairs shall report on all matters pertaining to city planning, building permits and inspection, municipal art and architecture, the construction and maintenance of roads, sidewalks, bridges and parks, and all other municipal improvements which shall tend to preserve and add to the attractiveness of the city of Honolulu. It shall also consider all questions of local government administration, other than those matters relating to local legislation, health and sanitation and finance.

This is one of the proposed committees of the Greater Honolulu Chamber of Commerce.

Even a casual survey of the powers and duties given the committee shows what an important part it could take just now in helping mould the progress of Honolulu.

"City planning"—that alone is a big factor in city progress, and now almost a neglected factor. The Outdoor Circle is doing more city planning than any other organization.

And so on through the list of activities the committee will undertake.

"The construction and maintenance of roads"—there is a boundless opportunity for helping Honolulu along right lines. The present uncertain municipal policy regarding roads shows what need there is for a crystallization of public opinion on road-building materials and methods. Such a committee, working with the supervisors and the city engineer, would be of immense service. It could, providing this chamber is a really representative community organization, speak for the great majority of Honolulu's taxpayers, who now have no opportunity to become vocal.

But this proposed Greater Chamber cannot be representative, it cannot be organized at all, unless there is a general and hearty cooperation to give it representative membership.

It's the old question of a united community, given new significance by a concrete plan to make that unity possible and give it greatest effectiveness and driving power.

A RESTIVE SENATOR

Senator Hitchcock's open break with his party will hardly be repaired in time for the Democratic majority to have the benefit of his vote on the final adoption of the tariff bill. The fighting senator from Nebraska some time ago gave evidence that he would refuse to be bound by the Democratic caucus, and his denunciation of the caucus system in the senate yesterday indicates that instead of becoming reconciled, he is more bitter than ever in his opposition.

Hitchcock's split with his party has come about because his proposal for a graduated pro-

gressive tax on tobacco was flatly turned down. The Nebraskan has been centering his attack on the American Tobacco Company and has declared over and over again that its dissolution by order of the supreme court was a glaring farce. In order to check what he insists is a swollen and evil trust, he proposed the graduated tax and his break from the Democratic ranks dates from the day when his plan was coolly rejected.

The Congressional Record of August 12 sets forth plainly why Hitchcock is leaving the Democratic majority. Here are some excerpts from his speech of that day:

I shall not take time today to elaborate what I propose to show later on in the session when I urge my amendment for a graduated, progressive tax on the manufacture of tobacco, at which time I propose to discuss the matter that I had before the Democratic caucus.

I propose to discuss also the action of the Democratic caucus in putting restraint upon its members against voting according to their convictions upon my amendment upon the floor of the senate.

I only desire now to call the attention of the senate to the extent to which his widely diversified industry of tobacco-growing is restrained and monopolized by a few great manufacturing concerns. For instance, four of the concerns into which the courts divided the great Tobacco Trust, now owned by the same stockholders, dominated by the same intellect, operating in close cooperation—those four concerns, as shown by the figures recently furnished the senate by the secretary of the treasury, last year manufactured 71.3 per cent of all the tobacco in the United States, a monopoly greater even than it was at the time the decree of the supreme court purported to dissolve the trust.

The New York Times, from which I have a clipping upon my desk, shows that at the time of the dissolution ordered by the court Mr. Brady held 33,344 shares of the common stock of the American Tobacco Co. Those shares were worth \$400 each.

Under the decree of dissolution he was permitted to take shares in some fourteen subsidiary companies, now controlled by the Lorillards or by Liggett & Myers or by the American Tobacco Co. The shares which he received in place of the shares of the American Tobacco Co., then worth \$400 each, are now worth \$700 each, an increase of \$10,000,000 in the market value of his holdings since the dissolution of the so-called trust. This does not represent all of his profit since the trust was dissolved into four closely allied concerns.

I recite these facts at this time as a preamble to what I shall say on a future occasion in the senate before debate on this bill is concluded. If the American people are in earnest in outlawing trusts—and I believe they are—and if the senate is in earnest—and it ought to be in earnest—no rule of a caucus should restrain senators from voting for a measure which will put a stop to this defiance of a judicial decree. My amendment, levying a progressive tax on the products of the Tobacco Trusts, will restore a condition of competition once more to the tobacco manufacturers who use the tobacco which the senator from North Carolina says is raised in so many different states.

It is not to be questioned that the Democratic caucus system has furnished an almost perfect machine for party control of Congress. Very likely the "insurgents" of the future will rise up and fight this system as they fought Cannonism.

Porter Charlton, who is charged with the murder of his bride in Italy, says that he has learned his lesson now and will return to America prepared to lead a better life. Harry Thaw from Matteawan has repeatedly expressed his penitence for the past. A little commonsense on their part some years ago would have been more to the point.

The nomination of Henry Morgenthau, chairman of Wilson's campaign finance committee, as ambassador to Turkey suggests a new form of dollar diplomacy.

Mayor Fern will participate in the territorial civic convention—that is, he will direct the band to furnish music for the gathering.

It's sixteen to one that Bryan can do as much good out on the Chautauqua circuit as in the state department at Washington.

Looks like the Ad Club is going to divide honors with some other commercial bodies, thus multiplying local interest.

Shooting craps is not popular with the Rapid Transit Company management, whatever it may be with the police.

A significant fact: The Hawaii Herald says: "Kealohe was Mattoon's first visitor at the Hilo jail."

Pretty soon these round-the-island tours will be run for nothing, with free meals thrown in.

Now we'll see whether Japan will recognize Felix Diaz!

Stocks are reported to be hesitating. Ditto the buyers.

Hilo also produces tennis-players.

Watch Hilo Crow!

Letters OR TIMELY TOPICS

[The Star-Bulletin invites free and frank discussion in this column on all legitimate subjects of current interest. Communications are constantly received to which no signature is attached. This paper will treat as confidential signatures to letters if the writers so desire, but cannot give space to anonymous communications.]

SWATTING THE FLY

Honolulu, T. H., Aug. 30, 1913.
Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.
Sir:—In last night's paper you published the announcement of the district attorney's office that a "swat-the-fly" ordinance is to be placed on the books along with some other more or less useless appendages to the city government, and I would like a word if your valuable space will afford.

I would suggest that rather than have an anti-fly ordinance for the residents to violate, it would be more in keeping with the funny things of the kono weather that a garbage system be first established, and then the flies will be able to take

care of themselves, provided the city does not destroy the refuse collected. I have lived in the lower end of Palolo valley for the past few months, and up to a day or so ago have not seen the semblance of a garbage wagon, when—wonder of wonders—one of those rare mammals appeared on the scene and removed a couple of boxes filled with cans that I had carefully placed in the corner of the yard, but overlooked another box of unburnable rubbish sitting alongside these cans. Now, I have a suggestion which I think might help to eliminate part of the expense of collection and prove a source of revenue to the city, and it is this:

The local can factory and the canneries think enough of the few cents earned from the scrap tin in their factories that they save it all, and ship it to the coast to be made over again. Don't you think the city could make a little money from the thousands of tins collected in a month to pay a large portion of the expense in collection? Thanking you in advance, I am,

JUST A. KNOCKER.

Personal Mention

JOHN D. KENNEDY, the Hilo Jeweler, is in Honolulu on a brief business and pleasure trip.

MISS M. ORNSTED, stenographer for the promotion committee, is spending her vacation on Hawaii.

FULLER LOW, who has been visiting with relatives in Hilo for the past few weeks, has returned to Honolulu.

H. T. BARCLAY, head bookkeeper of the Hilo Iron Works, has returned to Hilo after a brief business trip to Honolulu.

MARION M. SCOTT, principal of the McKinley High School, has returned to Honolulu after a stay of several weeks on Hawaii.

LESTER FISHEL left last night for a business trip to Maui and Hawaii. He will return to Honolulu about the middle of the month.

MRS. ALICE M. JORDAN, manager of the associated charities, left for Kailua today, where she will spend a week's vacation.

ABRAHAM L. LOUISON, a member of the firm of Louison Brothers, of Pohnaia, Hawaii, has returned to the Big Island after a business trip to Los Angeles.

SENATOR DELBERT E. METZGER of Hilo is prolonging his stay in Honolulu. He expected to leave on the Mauna Kea today, but will remain over until next week.

MISS SARA FEATHERSTONE has severed her connection with the public schools in order to take charge of the new open-air private school which will be opened September 8 in Kapiolani park.

C. H. JENNINGS, formerly in the real estate business in the city, has gone to Hilo to take the management of the branch of Wall, Nichols Company in the Crescent City.

MRS. WILLIAM WILLIAMSON, wife of Commissioner Williamson, has gone to Hilo, where she intends remaining until after the completion of the Hawaii investigation.

FREDERICK E. HARVEY, an engineer in the employ of the department of public works, has announced that he will go into business for himself shortly after the first of the month.

C. E. WRIGHT, manager of the Volcano Stables at Hilo, who came to Honolulu to be in attendance at the recent meeting of the Hawaii fair commission, has returned to the crescent city. He was accompanied by Mrs. Wright.

MISS L. BURT, of Berkeley, Cal., accompanied by her mother, Mrs. E. L. Burt, has arrived in Hilo to take the position of librarian of the Hilo library. Miss Burt was recently chosen for this position by the Hilo board of library directors.

FRED G. COOPER, postmaster at Pearl Harbor, has issued a notice to the effect that his office will be open for business Tuesday, September 2. Mails will be dispatched at 10:25 a. m. and 2:25 p. m. and will be received at 9:45 a. m. and 2:45 p. m.

Desirable Residence For Sale

On makai side of East Manoa Road; lot approximately 150x150. Lower floor of house contains parlor, dining-room, den, bedroom, lavatory, and closet adjoining bedroom, pantry, kitchen, dish closets, large back porch. Second story contains two bedrooms, bath, (linen drawers in hall), three large closets. In basement is cemented laundry, servants' room, bath and store room. With the house is included gas stove, water heater, stair carpet, curtain rods, statue on newel post and sundry electric lights. There is a garage in the yard with cemented floor and servants' room; also a large fern house, chicken and pigeon houses with runs. Chickens and choice pigeons will be included in the sale. This is splendid opportunity to secure a well constructed house in good condition and in an excellent locality.

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LARGE THROUG ATTENDS TALK AT Y. M. C. A.

Local business and professional men, to the number of 25, were in attendance at the meeting of the Alexander Hamilton Institute Club in Cooke Hall, Young Men's Christian Association building, last evening. W. C. Hall, of Canton, Neli and Company presided, the first address of the evening being delivered by Percy M. Pond, who spoke on the relative claims of the landlord, the laborer, the capitalist and the promoter, on the proceeds of an enterprise.

ERNEST CROPP TO TAKE CHARGE OF KOLOA PLANTATION

A change in management will be made on the Koloa Sugar Plantation with the first of the month, according to an announcement made by Hackfeld and Company this morning. Ernest Cropp, who has been connected for years with the Oahu Sugar Company, as a division manager, has been given the management of the Koloa plantation to succeed Charles Wilcox. The latter is leaving to take the position left vacant by the death of his brother, Ralph Wilcox, head overseer of the E. N. Wilcox plantation at Lihue, Kauai.

Mr. Cropp, officials of the Hackfeld company stated this morning, is a thoroughly experienced plantation man. He has been connected with the Oahu Sugar Company for a number of years and has had valuable experience in the different sides of plantation work.

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H. F. Wichman led the discussion of the present high cost of living, while Paul super presented the solution of the first problem, which concerned the erection of a cement mill and the methods of securing and holding labor. The club now has an enrollment of 35 members, who will gather in Cooke Hall for their next meeting September 12.

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